

The Budget—Mr. Deans

to take place on a regular basis. We used to have the Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton, God rest his soul, continuously defending the value of the Public Service. Anyone listening to the question and my response would realize that the conflicts within the Conservative Party make it virtually impossible for any kind of rational policy development.

The answer to the Hon. Member's question is simply this.

Mr. Mayer: Now we are going to get the answer.

Mr. Deans: If the Hon. Member and his colleagues had supported our attempts to hold interest rates down, we would not be faced with the situation we are now faced with.

Mr. Thacker: Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) had forced interest rates in Canada down artificially, the value of the Canadian dollar would have dropped. The very people the Hon. Member purports to represent suffer when the Canadian dollar drops to 60 cents or 65 cents. The cost of imports goes up enormously when the Canadian dollar drops. So this is just hogwash.

The Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain cannot get around the fact that today over 30 per cent of tax revenue goes to service the debt. This means the wealthy become fabulously wealthy and the middle class is eaten away. I would like him to tell me where he would draw the line. Would it be at 30 per cent, 50 per cent, 60 per cent or 15 per cent?

Mr. Deans: Mr. Speaker, there must be some problem with the acoustics here. We are not far apart geographically. Distance does not seem to be the problem; it must be perception. I would like to suggest again that the reason it costs 30 per cent to service the debt is because of the Liberal-Conservative alliance on fiscal policy.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deans: If the House of Commons had supported—

Mr. Mayer: Be fair.

Mr. Deans: I am being fair as always.

Mr. Mayer: You did not listen to what I said this morning.

Mr. Deans: No, but I have listened to you often. I only have to hear your speech once. Mr. Speaker, you know as well as I that if the Conservatives had had their Members here to join with us in those numerous occasions when defeating the Government would have been possible, we could have gotten rid of this motley crew. More importantly, if they had decided to vote with us on those important items we might have had an impact on the fiscal and monetary policy of the Government. Even more importantly than that, if they had supported us in our job creation programs, all of which would have been of considerable value to the future growth of the country, we would have had more people working and paying tax and therefore have had more revenue for the Government. It would have had to borrow less. We would therefore would not be in the situation we are now in.

It is because the spokesman for the Conservative Party continuously supported the Liberal thrust at every single turn that we have a deficit today in the order of \$29 billion. It is because the Liberals and Tories together did not understand the impact of the high interest rate policy and therefore supported it over many months and drove people into unemployment that we are faced with the deficit. It costs us \$1 billion a month to maintain the unemployment insurance program.

If we could have had Conservative support for our measures, such as building homes for people, we could have created 280,000 man-years of work. The Tories said we could not afford it. When we were proposing to go on with the auto task force report and create 80,000 jobs in Canada over the next five years, I heard not one single whisper of support from the Conservative Party. When we were talking about completing the east-west pipeline and creating self-sufficiency in the country, at the same time putting people back to work in the steel and construction industry, there was not one whisper of support from the Conservative Party.

Mr. Riis: Silence, just silence.

Mr. Deans: When we were saying we had to come to grips with the lack of an agricultural implement industry, a forest industry and mining implement industry, we heard not one single word of support from the Conservative Party. The Conservative Party has been one of the major contributing factors to the problems that confront the majority of people in the country. When they suddenly start crying about the state of the economy, it makes us realize they are not telling the truth.

Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, when one hears the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans) espousing his theory of economics, one begins to wonder whether James Laxer was right after all that they are still back in the sixties. I have had occasion to travel to some countries that have socialist governments. It is true they do provide a great deal. In Canada the NDP neglect to mention that they take something like 56 to 60 per cent of the GNP to provide everything everybody in a particular country demands. That would never have made Canada great. We would have been sitting on our duffs not doing anything but saying the Government will provide. That is the difference in the philosophy of the Conservatives and Liberals as opposed to the socialists in the corner. Canadians are a people of the free enterprise intellect. They want to have an opportunity to develop, and this is the greatest country in the world. As the former Minister of Immigration, I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that there are 800,000 to 900,000 people a year clamouring to get into this country. We must be doing something right despite all the socialist rhetoric we have heard this morning.

There is not only \$150 million directed to unemployment in Canada, there is \$3.5 billion. The Hon. Member wants to ignore previous Budgets and Throne Speech debates and focus on this amount of money which is directed primarily to youth unemployment. The amount of \$150 million is hardly piddling.